

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

An article of manufacture is placed in cooperative relationship with a liquid-containing bottle, such as a wine bottle, to absorb liquid which runs down the neck of the bottle after pouring out a portion of the contents and returning the bottle to an upright position. The article comprises a length of flexible cord with opposite ends passed through closely spaced, laterally adjacent passageways of a retaining member to form a closed loop on one side of the retaining member and the cord extending to free ends on the other side. The closed loop is placed around the bottle neck and the retaining member, which is in frictional engagement with the cord, is moved to essentially remove slack from the closed loop. The retaining member then rests upon the bottle neck and the free ends extend down the bottle base. Weight members may be attached to the free ends of the cord after passing through the passageways. In other embodiments, the cord is passed around the bottle neck a second time, i.e., in addition to the closed loop, and secured either by tying the cord portions extending from the retaining member to one another, or by passing the cord ends through a second retaining member.